UNITED NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/47/690
25 November 1992

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 60

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL (BIOLOGICAL) WEAPONS

Report of the First Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Jerzy ZALESKI (Poland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Chemical and bacteriological (biological) weapons" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with its resolution 46/35 C of 6 December 1991.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the First Committee.

3. At its 2nd meeting, on 8 October 1992, the First Committee decided to hold a general debate on all disarmament and international security items allocated to it, namely, items 49 to 65, 68 and 142; and 67 and 69, respectively. The deliberations on those items took place between the 3rd and 21st meetings, from 12 to 28 October (see A/C.1/47/PV.3-21). Consideration of draft resolutions on those items took place between the 22nd and 30th meetings, from 29 October to 11 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.22-30). Action on draft resolutions on those items took place between the 31st and 40th meetings, from 12 to 25 November (see A/C.1/47/PV.31-40).

4. In connection with item 60, the First Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Conference on Disarmament; 1/

(b) Letter dated 27 January 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Mozambique to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/78-S/23490);

(c) Letter dated 11 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the concluding documents of the Second Meeting of the Council of Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe, held at Prague on 30 and 31 January 1992 (A/47/89-S/23576);

(d) Letter dated 28 April 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/181);

(e) Letter dated 17 August 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Solomon Islands to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of the Final Communiqué of the Twenty-third South Pacific Forum, held at Honiara on 8 and 9 July 1992 (A/47/391);

(f) Letter dated 3 September 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Argentina to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/422);

(g) Letter dated 14 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Kuwait to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/441-S/24559);

(h) Letter dated 15 September 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the text of a statement issued by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Damascus Declaration countries at their sixth meeting, held at Doha on 9 and 10 September 1992 (A/47/449-S/24566);

(i) Letter dated 25 August 1992 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/47/564);

(j) Letter dated 23 November 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Germany to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/C.1/47/13).

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.1/47/L.1 AND REV.1 AND 2

5. On 7 October, Afghanistan, Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zaire and Zambia submitted a draft resolution entitled "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction" (A/C.1/47/L.1), which was later also sponsored by Cuba, Guyana, Israel, Kazakhstan, Malawi, the Niger, the Russian Federation and Rwanda. At the 3rd meeting of the Committee, on 12 October, Mauritania withdrew its sponsorship.

6. On 29 October, the sponsors submitted a revised draft resolution (A/C.1/47/L.1/Rev.1), which was later also sponsored by Burkina Faso, Guinea-Bissau and Sierra Leone. The revised draft resolution contained the following changes:

(a) The seventh preambular paragraph, which had read:

> "Convinced that the Convention will improve the security of all States, and therefore merits the strong support of the international community",

was revised to read:

> "Convinced that the Convention, particularly as adherence to it approaches universality, will contribute to the maintenance of international peace and improve the security of all States, and that it therefore merits the strong support of the entire international community";

(b) The eighth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Convinced further that the Convention will promote expanded international trade, technological development and economic cooperation in the chemical sector and thereby advance the economic interests of States parties",

was revised to read:

"Convinced further that the implementation of the Convention should promote expanded international trade, technological development and economic cooperation in the chemical sector, in order to enhance the economic and technological development of all States parties";

(c) A new tenth preambular paragraph was added, reading:

"Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992";

(d) In the original tenth preambular paragraph, now the eleventh preambular paragraph, the date "13" was inserted;

(e) In operative paragraph 2, the date "13" was inserted;

(f) In operative paragraph 3, the first line, which had read:

"3. Calls upon all States to sign and thereafter to become parties to ..."

was revised to read:

"3. Calls upon all States to sign and, thereafter, according to their respective constitutional processes, to become parties to ..."

(g) A new operative paragraph 5 was added, reading:

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide such services as may be requested by the signatory States to initiate the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons",

and the subsequent paragraph was renumbered accordingly.

7. On 10 November, Afghanistan, Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia,

Denmark, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, the Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lesotho, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Marshall Islands, Mauritius, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Mongolia, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, San Marino, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Swaziland, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela, Zaire and Zambia submitted a further revised draft resolution (A/C.1/47/L.1/Rev.2), which was later also sponsored by Viet Nam. The revised draft resolution was introduced by the representative of Germany at the 28th meeting, on 10 November. The revised draft resolution contained the following changes:

(a) A new ninth preambular paragraph was added, reading:

"Determined to ensure the efficient and cost-effective implementation of the Convention";

(b) In the original tenth preambular paragraph, now the eleventh preambular paragraph, the first line, which had read:

"Bearing in mind the Final Document of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State ..."

was revised to read:

"Bearing in mind the relevant references to the Convention in the Final Documents of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State ...".

8. In connection with the draft resolution, the Secretary-General submitted a statement on its programme budget implications (A/C.1/47/L.43). At the 31st meeting, on 12 November, the programme budget implications were orally revised by the Secretary of the Committee (see A/C.1/47/PV.31).

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.1/47/L.1/Rev.2 without a vote (see para. 11).

10. Subsequently, in a letter dated 25 November 1992 addressed to the Secretary of the Committee, the delegation of Trinidad and Tobago indicated its wish to become a sponsor of the draft resolution.

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE FIRST COMMITTEE

11. The First Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction

The General Assembly,

Recalling the long-standing determination of the international community to achieve the effective prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons, and their destruction, as well as the continuing support for measures to uphold the authority of the Protocol for the Prohibition of the Use in War of Asphyxiating, Poisonous or Other Gases, and of Bacteriological Methods of Warfare, signed at Geneva on 17 June 1925, 2/ as expressed by consensus in many previous resolutions,

Recalling in particular its resolution 46/35 C of 6 December 1991, in which the Assembly strongly urged the Conference on Disarmament, as a matter of the highest priority, to resolve outstanding issues so as to achieve a final agreement on a convention on the prohibition of the development, production, stockpiling and use of chemical weapons and on their destruction during its 1992 session,

Bearing in mind the Final Declaration 3/ of the Conference of States Parties to the 1925 Geneva Protocol and Other Interested States, held in Paris from 7 to 11 January 1989, in which participating States stressed their determination to prevent any recourse to chemical weapons by completely eliminating them,

Determined to make progress towards general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control, including the prohibition and elimination of all types of weapons of mass destruction,

Convinced, therefore, of the urgent necessity of a total ban on chemical weapons, so as to abolish an entire category of weapons of mass destruction, and thus to eliminate the risk to mankind of renewed use of these inhumane weapons,

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2/ League of Nations, Treaty Series, vol. XCIV (1929), No. 2138.

3/ A/44/88, annex.

Welcoming the draft Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, 4/ adopted by the Conference on Disarmament and contained in its report dated 3 September 1992, the result of many years of intensive negotiations, which constitutes a historic achievement in the field of arms control and disarmament,

Convinced that the Convention, particularly as adherence to it approaches universality, will contribute to the maintenance of international peace and improve the security of all States, and that it therefore merits the strong support of the entire international community,

Convinced also that the implementation of the Convention should promote expanded international trade, technological development and economic cooperation in the chemical sector, in order to enhance the economic and technological development of all States parties,

Determined to ensure the efficient and cost-effective implementation of the Convention,

Recalling the support for the prohibition of chemical weapons expressed in the declaration by representatives of the world's chemical industry at the Government-Industry Conference against Chemical Weapons, held at Canberra from 18 to 22 September 1989, 5/

Bearing in mind the relevant references to the Convention in the final documents of the Tenth Conference of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries, held at Jakarta from 1 to 6 September 1992,

Welcoming the invitation of the President of the French Republic to participate in a ceremony to sign the Convention in Paris on 13 January 1993,

1. Commends the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, as contained in the report of the Conference on Disarmament dated 3 September 1992;

2. Requests the Secretary-General, as Depositary of the Convention, to open it for signature in Paris on 13 January 1993;

4/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 27 (A/47/27), appendix I.

5/ See A/C.1/44/4.

3. Calls upon all States to sign and, thereafter, according to their respective constitutional processes, to become parties to the Convention at the earliest possible date, thus contributing to its rapid entry into force and to the early achievement of universal adherence;

4. Also calls upon all States to ensure the effective implementation of this unprecedented, global, comprehensive and verifiable multilateral disarmament agreement, thereby enhancing cooperative multilateralism as a basis for international peace and security;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to provide such services as may be requested by the signatory States to initiate the work of the Preparatory Commission for the Organization on the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons;

6. Also requests the Secretary-General, as Depositary of the Convention, to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session on the status of signatures and ratifications of the Convention.